

News of Mishawaka

Reamer Goes to Trial Before Board of Safety; Other Officers Testify; to Give Decision Monday

More than 100 men and two women packed the gallery of the council chamber of the city hall yesterday when the board of safety met to try Motorcycle Officer Harry Reamer on charges of misconduct. The trial started at 1:30 p.m. and continued throughout the rest of the afternoon.

Officer Reamer was called into the office of Chief Barrows a week ago and notified that he was to be suspended on charges. He took his police shield and threw it on the chief's desk stating, "I am through. I have resigned." Upon consulting with local political leaders, Reamer decided to ask for a trial. The Dodge administration disregarded the fact that the accused officer had forfeited his right to a trial by resigning and gave him a copy of the "Jernegan Rights."

Atty. Ralph Jernegan, counsel for the suspended officer was on his feet most of the time battling for his client. There were 15 witnesses examined and much time taken up in wordy battle between City Atty. Bingham and counsel for Reamer.

P. H. Howlett was chairman of the board, Fred G. Eberhard and Charles J. Roy sitting as associate members. Mayor W. W. Ridge presided with the chairman throughout the proceedings.

All testimony was recorded by a court stenographer. The accused officer and his counsel sat on one side of the table and City Atty. Bingham and Chief of Police Harry Barrows sat on the other side of the

same table. Many volumes of law were piled high on the table between the two lawyers.

Tells Police Secrets.

After an eloquent and dramatic speech by Atty. Jernegan to have the affidavit admitted but not placed into the record, the city attorney withdrew his objection but not until Mr. Jernegan conceded that it was not proper evidence.

Motorcycle Officer Harry Reamer was arraigned on three specific charges. He was charged with referring to Chief of Police Harry A. Barrows as a "kid chief," and generally belittling the police department with commenting on the decisions of Judge John M. Raab in a derogatory manner and with using foul and abusive language to persons he arrested or was about to arrest.

Harvey C. Howard of the News-Times was the first witness called. He testified that immediately after Judge Raab had pronounced and suspended sentence on six young men who had been brought in for gambling, Officer Reamer turned to him and said: "By God, isn't it criminal the way he is letting those fellows off?" Howard was cross-examined by Mr. Jernegan.

During the entire course of the trial it developed that of the 12 witnesses examined, Howard's testimony was the only one which was not denied by the accused officer, who admitted making the statement.

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Atty. Jernegan jumped up defending his attitude, admitted that his case was not being presented

strict accordance with the legal code of practice and insisted that the board of safety should grant him especial latitude because of the peculiar nature of the case.

Presents Petition For Reamer.

He attempted to introduce a document drawn up by Jernegan, form signed by six residents of Mishawaka, attesting to the good character of the accused and refusing the charges made against him. This brought on another wordy legal battle. Bingham strenuously objecting to admitting this kind of evidence.

Testifies Improper.

Several dramatic instances featured the trial, among them being a charge made by former Chief Valentine J. Pfender that officers under his command had allowed liquor to be dumped and destroyed by women before the police could seize it as evidence. This statement came in voluntarily after City Atty. Bingham had fired a volley of questions at Pfender under cross examination.

City Atty. Bingham specifically charged Atty. Jernegan with attempting to introduce evidence in direct contradiction to custom and practice of law. In a number of instances Atty. Jernegan solemnly warned the board of safety that must do its duty and laid especial stress upon the fact that Reamer's trial must not have any political significance.

He attacked the written charges as being too general and was overruled in an effort to introduce a number of witnesses on matters for trial to the complainant.

"If this complaint is faulty," declared City Atty. Bingham, "the defense should ask for its dismissal on the ground of lack of cleaving the with a man of extraneous matter, and Mr. Jernegan can well know this to be the legal practice."

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testified that he had known the accused officer for seven years, that the day after Herman Beehler had been appointed captain, Reamer said to him, "Holycross, this is some more of the kid chief's work," referring to Chief Barrows. Holycross also testified that he had heard Reamer swear and abuse people who were arrested, that he had used bodily force on prisoners at the time of arrest without warrant, that he swore at women, that he always belittled the police department, and that he, Holycross, had brought these matters to the attention of former chief Pfender.

Police Officer Charles Ives went on the stand and testified that on or about Jan. 5 or 6 the accused officer accompanied him to a call on Niles av., and in making the arrest had sworn to and abused the prisoner.

Police Officer Charles Ainsley occasioned considerable laughter when he testified that he and the accused officer were detailed last October to "look for a gentleman who was beating up his wife." Upon being asked to repeat his statement, he amended it by omitting the word "gentleman." Ainsley testified that Officer Reamer had sworn at the woman in the case and abused her. The city administration rested its case at 2:30 p.m.

Jernegan Defies Board.

Charles C. Gates of South Bend was the first witness called. He was a member of the notorious "Gates gang" and was a close friend of Mr. Jernegan. He described his defiance at the board and at City Atty. Bingham. Gates' testimony was admitted, but with an agreement between counsel for both sides that there would be no other like testimony introduced.

Plender Testifies.

Former Chief of Police Valentine J. Pfender then took the stand and testified that Reamer had always made a good officer, and that excepting his tendency to thrust himself forward and the slight friction he caused in the department, he was a valuable man. He told that Officer Reamer had made 27 arrests for speeding in the seven months he was on the force but that only a small percentage of these were convicted. He denied that Officer Holycross had ever complained to him of Reamer or that he had ever heard any complaints.

Cross examined by Mr. Bingham, he admitted that he had advised Officer Reamer to demand a trial.

Dr. H. J. Magrane was placed on the stand in rebuttal of testimony given by former Chief Pfender and testified that Pfender had told him three weeks before he went out of office that he had heard many complaints against Reamer, but in view of the fact that he was about to go out of office he would take no action in the matter, adding that "Reamer is a good friend of mine."

Mr. Pfender on re-direct examination admitted that Dr. Magrane had talked with him and that he had warned Reamer several times not to be too zealous and too forward, but denied that he had ever criticised Reamer.

Former Judge Ralph S. Feig testified that Reamer was overzealous in making arrests, but otherwise believed him to be a good officer.

Deputy Pros. E. J. Bower testified to the good character of the accused officer and said that he had never had any complaints regarding him. The same testimony was given by Atty. Charles L. Metzger, who testified for Reamer.

Reamer testified for himself.

The accused officer was placed on the stand by Mr. Jernegan to testify in his own behalf. He told that he was employed by the Dodge Manufacturing Co. before joining the police force, was married and lived at 223 E. Eleventh st.

He admitted the open criticism he had made of the findings of Judge Raab, denied that he had ever referred to Chief Barrows as "the kid chief," admitted that he had declared he would quit if Herman Beehler was appointed captain and justified himself by telling the board of safety that he and Beehler were not on speaking terms. He admitted having used vile language to men he had arrested, but protested that it was under extreme provocation.

City Atty. Charles W. Bingham declined to sum up for the city and told the board of works that he rested his case on the evidence submitted. Mr. Jernegan made an eloquent and impassioned plea for acquittal, but denied that he had ever criticised Reamer.

The board took the case under advisement and will render a decision at the next meeting Monday, Jan. 30.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

AUTOMOBILES

Automobiles for Sale. 11

FORDS—TO THE PARTY DESIRING A GOOD CHEAP USED FORD CAR CALL MISHAWAKA 2077. EVENINGS.

EMPLOYMENT

Help Wanted—Female

32

GIRL wants work, experienced in housework, or will take any kind of work. Address C. C. News-Times, Mishawaka Office.

271

Help Wanted—Male

33

SALESMEN WANTED—Four first-class salesmen to call on retail trade and give reference. Address Lock Box 210, Mishawaka, Ind.

102

LIVE STOCK

Dogs, Cats, Pets. 47

FOR SALE—Full-blooded white Russian greyhound pup. Page Pharmacy, corner Sixth and Spring sts. Phone Mishawaka 1012.

FOR SALE—Birds, canaries, male and female, also Polly parrots, at Powell's.

288

Houses For Sale

84

FOR SALE—Five-room house, 3 blocks from North Side center; \$900 cash required. Address 711 Ann st.

EIGHT-ROOM brick house on E. 8th st. for sale, completely modern. Three bedroom house, cash required. Address this one, \$1,000 cash. Hastings Realty Co. Phone Mishawaka 172—2812.

FOR SALE—Five-room house, 2 blocks off 6th st., in good condition; \$2,000; \$200 cash. Hastings Realty Co. Phone Mishawaka 172—2812.

FOR SALE—Seven rooms, neatly furnished, corner lot, on the North Side; possession March 7, \$3,200. Stark Realty Co.

288

FOR SALE—New 5 rooms and bath on 1st floor, 2nd floor, \$1,200 cash. Stark Realty Co.

288

FOR SALE—Six rooms, bath, furnace and light, \$300 cash and \$30 per month. Stark Realty Co.

288

FOR SALE—House on easy terms. Jas. C. Farwell, General Contractor, Reed Bldg., Mishawaka. Phone Mishawaka 2338.

288

FOR SALE—Four-room house, \$600 cash.

288

FOR SALE—Four-room house, \$600 cash.

288

FOR SALE—Four-room house, \$600 cash.

288

FOR SALE—Real Estate. 89

FOR SALE—A number of farm contracts ranging from \$100 to \$4,000, with 7% interest. Owner guarantees payment on any contract.

COMPANY: STANLEY CORP.

123 S. Lincoln Way West.

288

Wanted—Real Estate.

288

WANED—More land wanted. I have buyers waiting. List with me for quick action. John C. Mellish, Rooms 4, 5, Reed bldg. Phone Mishawaka 234.

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WANTED—Real Estate.

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